catharsis

By. Ahnika

COMING TO SCHOOL EARLY WAS WORTH IT.

YOU LOOK SO DIFFERENT!
DID YOU GET TALLER OR SOMETHING?
WHY TH... IMAGE CHANGE?
WHAT DID... THEY FE... YOU? H... DID YOU ... SO BIG? (LOL
Y-YOUR HAIR GOT LONG!
DID THEY TREAT YOU WELL?
ARE YOU AT THE PEAK OF YOUR REBELLIOUS PHASE?
I COULDN'T BELIEVE THEY WOULDN'T LET ME CONTACT YOU
DID YOU STUDY HARD? (IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?)
WERE YOU KICKED OUT OF THE PROGRAM?
DO YOU KNOW HOW WORRIED I WAS?
DID YOU QUIT?
WAIT, SO ARE YOU OK?
WEREN'T YOU ALLOWED AT LEAST A PHONE CALL OR SOMETHING?
WHY ARE YOU HERE?

I WOULDN'T MIND IF SHE WENT ON AND ON.

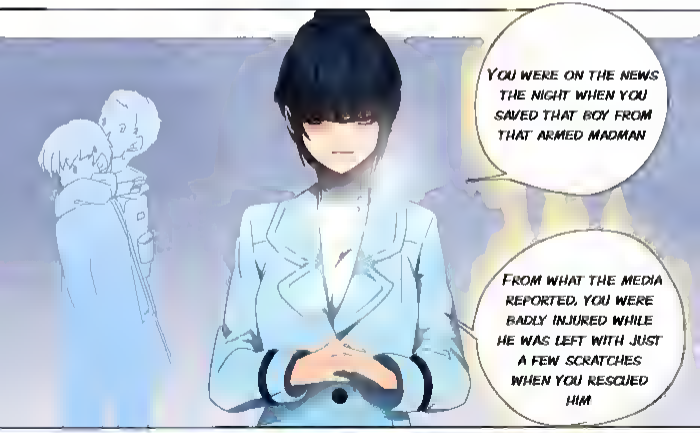
IT'S LIKE LOOKING AT THE SUN. ...BUT WITHOUT FRYING MY EYES.

WHY DIDN'T YOU CONTACT ME AT LEAST ONCE?!

Y-YOU CHANGED SO MUCH AFTER A MONTH. WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

WELL IT WASN'T MUCH REALLY... BUT I GUESS I COULD SAY THE SAME FOR YOU?
HA HA
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE BEEN OVERWORKING YOURSELF... DID YOU GET TUBBIER AS WELL?
STRESS EATING?
HA.. I WISH THAT WERE THE CASE.
I HAVE A BILLION LAYERS UNDER THIS COAT. I THINK I LOSS SOME WEIGHT AFTER WHAT I WENT THROUGH—
—

I WAS REALLY WORRIED YOU KNOW


YOU WERE ON THE NEWS THE NIGHT WHEN YOU SAVED THAT BOY FROM THAT ARMED MADMAN
FROM WHAT THE MEDIA REPORTED, YOU WERE BADLY INJURED WHILE HE WAS LEFT WITH JUST A FEW SCRATCHES WHEN YOU RESCUED HIM

...ALTHOUGH "ARMED MADMAN" IS JUST A COVER UP FOR REX AND JULIAN WAS THE ACTUAL ONE WHO SAVED US...
I FLIPPED OUT AND RUSHED OVER TO WHERE YOU WERE. BUT BY THE TIME I GOT THERE, THEY HAD ALREADY TAKEN YOU TO THE HOSPITAL WHILE YOU WERE IN CRITICAL CONDITION.
I WAS PRETTY MUCH LEFT IN THE DARK ON THE DETAILS. THEY DIDN'T EVEN TELL ME WHICH HOSPITAL YOU WERE TAKEN TO SINCE I WAS UNRELATED.

All I was told was that K Enterprises was going to take care of you

I couldn't really eat or sleep well thinking if you were okay or not.

Especially since you were just released from the hospital not long before..

Then suddenly after a week of no news they tell the school administration that you were transferred over to their High Potential school thing.

I understand that it was their token of gratitude for what you did

but it was

UNSETTLING.

IT WAS LIKE YOU DISAPPEARED.

TWO MONTHS GO BY WITHOUT WORD. AND THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU SHOW UP AGAIN

AND YOU SEEM LIKE YOU'RE JUST FINE...

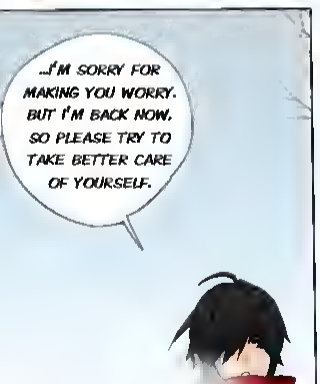
WE SHOULD HEAD INSIDE NOW

YOUR NOSE IS GLOWING BRIGHT RED

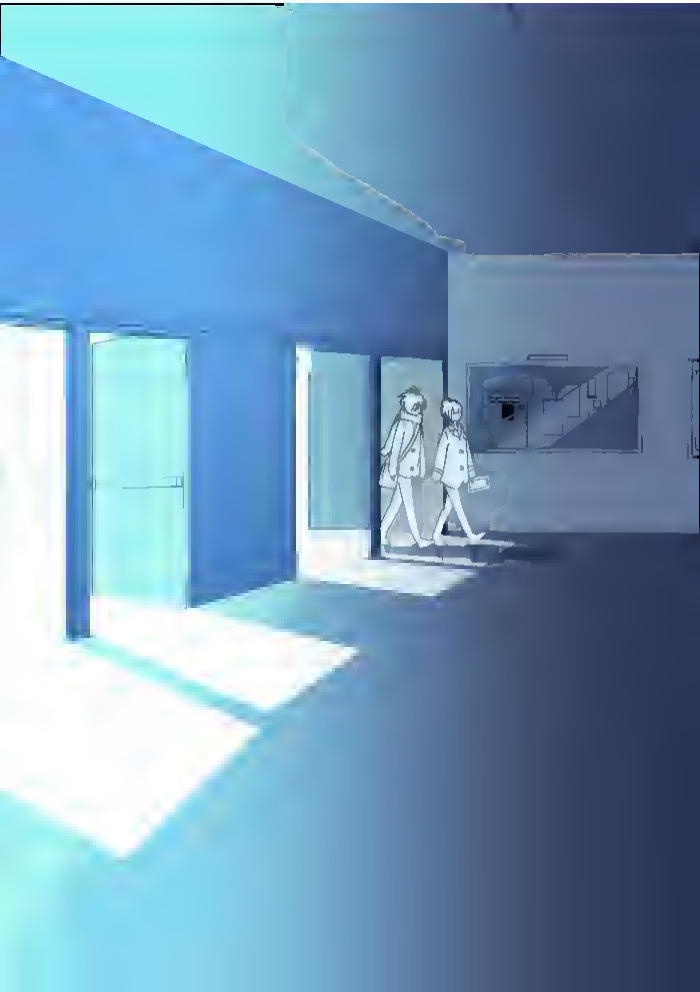
I'M AFRAID THAT IF IT GETS ANYMORE RED, IT WILL EXPLODE

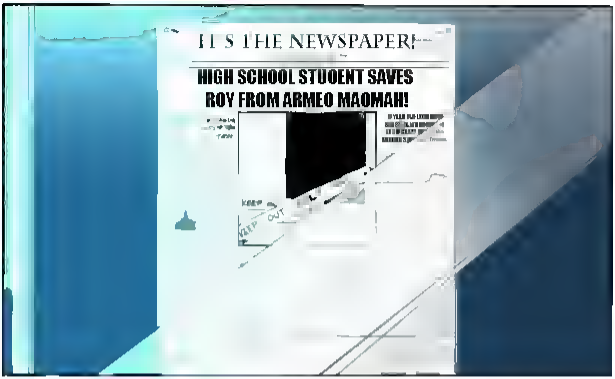
...OR SOMETHING.

COVER!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ANY SOONER?
LET'S GO!
MY BAD
MY BAD


...I'M SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WORRY. BUT I'M BACK NOW. SO PLEASE TRY TO TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOURSELF.

HEH WE'LL SEE.

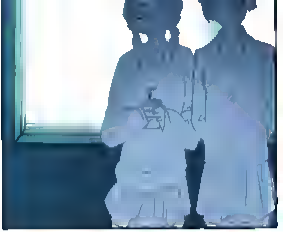




BY THE WAY, I FINALLY GOT IN CONTACT WITH YOUR MOM. IT WAS BRIEF BUT I MANAGED TO TELL HER ABOUT YOUR SITUATION LEAVING OUT A FEW DETAILS THAT MIGHT WORRY HER TOO MUCH.

SHE PROBABLY HAS A LOT ON HER MIND BEING DEPLOYED OVERSEAS. SHE

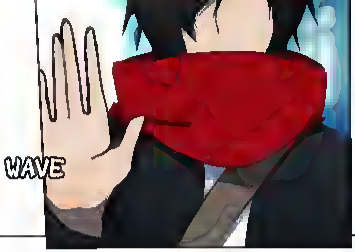
SAID THAT SHE WAS COMING HOME SOON LIKE MAYBE IN A COUPLE MONTHS OR SO.



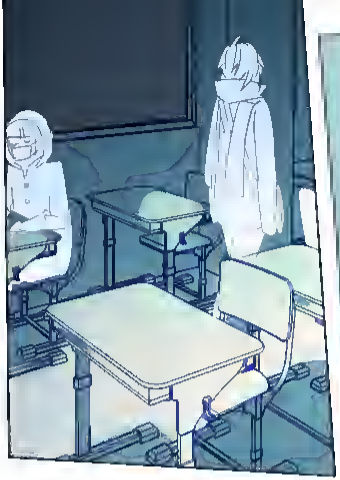
I'LL TELL YOU MORE ABOUT IT LATER, BUT FOR NOW GET TO CLASS.

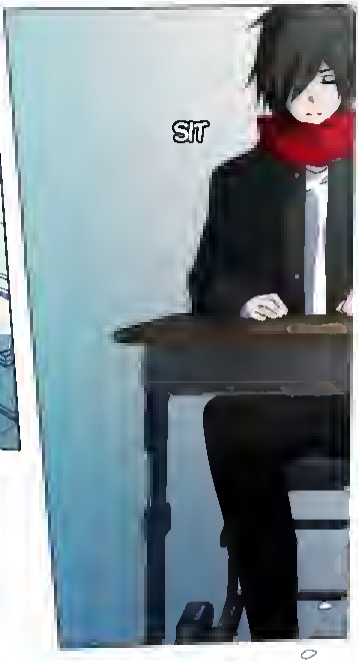
HOMEROOM WILL START SOON

SEE YOU THEN.


WAVE

OPEN





...THIS ATMOSPHERE...

STAAAARE

UMM...

YOU'RE LEON, RIGHT?

YES.
NOD

I'M SOI, THE CLASS PRESIDENT. WELCOME BACK TO CLASS!

I READ WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU IN THE PAPERS. YOU WERE REALLY BRAVE!

OH... THANK YOU.

THIS IS DIFFERENT... SOMEONE BESIDES AMI IS ACTUALLY TALKING TO ME.

YEAH! YOU WERE PRETTY COOL. AND YOU WERE ALSO ENROLLED IN HIGH POTENTIAL! THAT'S AMAZING!

BUT WHY DID YOU COME BACK?

AH...
I'M REALLY GRATEFUL THAT THEY TOOK CARE OF ME, BUT IT WAS JUST SOMETHING I WASN'T INTERESTED IN FOR MY FUTURE.
IS THAT A GOOD ENOUGH REPLY?

WAAAHH—
SO YOU CAN TALK NORMALLY...

YOU WERE ALWAYS REALLY QUIET AND KIND OF HARD TO APPROACH. SOME PEOPLE ALSO THOUGHT IT WAS BECAUSE YOU HAD AN EMBARASSING LISP OR SOMETHING...

WELL IT'S KIND OF HARD TO BELIEVE PEOPLE EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT APPROACHING ME IN THE FIRST PLACE.

.....

W-WELL, TAKE IT EASY. WE'LL LEAVE YOU ALONE FOR NOW SINCE WE DON'T WANT TO BOTHER YOU TOO MUCH SINCE YOU JUST GOT BACK
BUT I WANT TO TALK TO HIM MORE--
EEP!
..IT WASN'T A BOTHER AT ALL BUT THANK YOU.

WOAH, I'M SPEAKING SO CASUALLY TO PEOPLE MY AGE. IT FEELS A LITTLE TOO— UNNATURAL?

HARVEY TOLD ME TO TRY TO SETTLE BACK INTO PLACE WHEN I GOT BACK. BUT THAT SEEMS A LITTLE BIT HARD TO WITH PEOPLE APPROACHING ME MORE THAN USUAL.

It's a little tiring...but also pretty convenient since Im going to have to collect information.

I wonder if it's normal to feel a little exhilerated to talk so much

IT'S ALMOST LIKE ORCHESTRATING A RAINBOW.

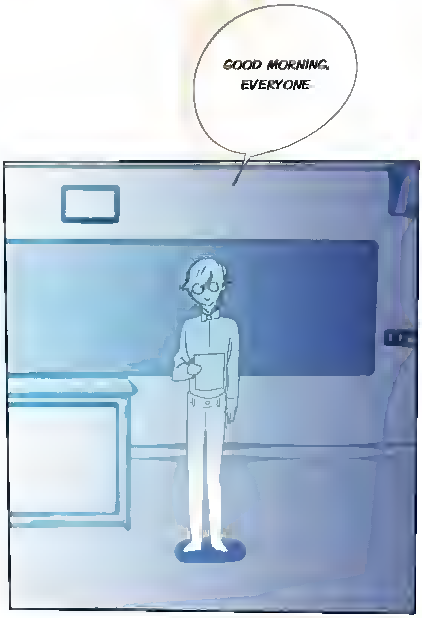
KINDA FUN...

CLACK!

STEP

STEP

STEP



GOOD MORNING.

BEFORE WE BEGIN I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME BACK LEON TO CLASS.

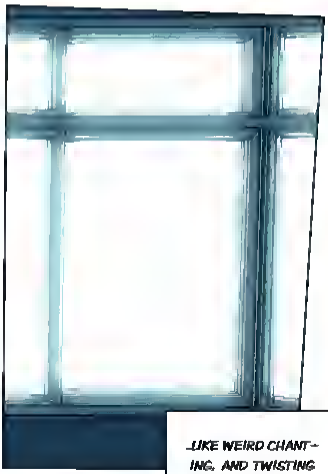
WHATEVER THE CIRCUMSTANCE, WE'RE HAPPY TO WELCOME YOU BACK--

I'LL TAKE ROLL NOW

(TUNING OUT HIS VOICE)

From what Harvey told me, the timorem is somehow related to some hyped up paper charm ritual that's popular with the first years.

Students try out the ritual and end up bedridden with some mysterious sickness. People think it's the bad case of the flu this season, but their symptoms seem far too bizarre for a flu.



...like weird chanting, and twisting their bodies in weird positions. ...almost like their possessed

...YIKES.

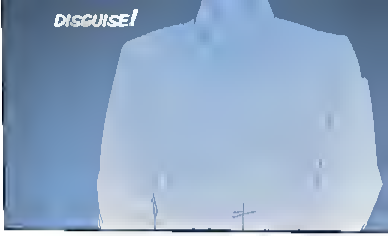
TO THINK THOSE TWO ARE NEARBY MAKES ME FEEL A LITTLE ANTSY. LIKE SOMETHING BAD IS GOING TO HAPPEN RIGHT AWAY NOW THAT WE'RE ACTUALLY HERE.

(AND I JUST GOT HERE.)

"WE'LL BOTH BE AROUND RELATIVELY CLOSE IN DISGUISE FOR INVESTIGATION. SO YOU DO YOUR PART AND SCOUT FOR ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS AS WELL."

"GET IN CONTACT WITH YOUR CLASSMATES. TRY TO FISH OUT ANY RUMORS THAT HAVE BEEN SPREADING ABOUT THAT PAPER CHARM."

I'll be checking the ins and outs of the school to determine the damage the Timorem caused. And Paris will be collecting information just like you"



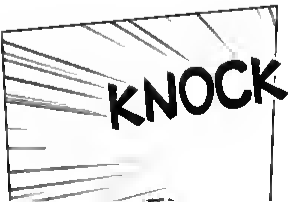
So Harvey is going around posing as an electrician. And I'm to play my part as a student to find out more about this charm with my classmates.-

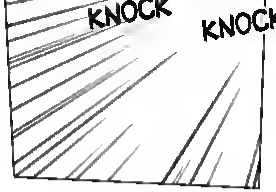
I'd start us off on how normalist but I've gotten word that we also have a new transfer student

I'll wait until he gets here so that we're all on the same page.

I WONDER WHAT PARIS IS UNDERCOVER AS...

THE CAFETERIA WORKER?





Oh!
THAT MUST BE HIM NOW

PFFT. AS IF HE'S EVEN THE TYPE TO APPROACH PEOPLE. I BET HE'S JUST SOMEWHERE BEING A JERK TO PEOPLE WHEREVER HE IS.

BAM

?!

OH--
WAS THE D-DOOR
STUCK? AHAHA.

STEP

STEP

STEP

STEP

W-WELL THIS IS OUR NEW STUDENT THAT I WAS REFERRING TO JUST NOW

MUMBLE

YEAH... NOT THE TYPE TO APPROACH PEOPLE... BUT WOULD BE MENACING WHEREVER HE WENT.

JOHAN JORDAN.

...

WAIT. SO IS THIS NAME FOR REAL?

LINE Webtoon